

called the Pope. No one is superior to him
 in power;
 the Kings are subject to him and consider
 him equal
 to the Creator, He governs with equity,
 redresses
 injustices, aids the weak and the poor,
 and protects
 the oppressed against the oppressors.
 His decrees
 have force over all the Kings of the
 Romans [of
 Europe] and no one of them can oppose
 him.

At such an estimation of Papal power
 the King of
 Sicily must have smiled.

In the preface of his book, Edrisi
 dedicates it at
 length to King Roger.

This great King, whom Heaven has
 loaded with
 glory and power, is the best and most
 celebrated
 among monarchs. His absolute will is the
 motive of
 his conduct in state affairs, all the intricacies of
 government
 has fixed itself in his person. He unites
 high intellect
 and goodness; to these are joined his
 resolution, sharp
 understanding, deep spirit, foresight, his
 skill in all
 measures, which betray a masterful
 intellect, He
 overlooks the whole range of his
 sovereignty, his
 sleep is as the awakening of other men, I
 cannot
 enumerate his knowledge of the exact and
 technical
 sciences, nor set bounds to his wisdom,

Such was one of the most devoted

of
 scholarship which any man
 undertook in that
 age, which afforded little material

for the
sciences, a work which cannot IMS
disappointing
to us when we consider the
circumstances. Its
completion delighted the first King of
the of